

ARTHUR HENRIK SORENSEN, MAREN ANDERSON SORENSEN, AND MINOR CHILD, EVELYN SORENSEN

---

JUNE 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

---

Mr. WALTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 51]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 51) for the relief of Arthur Henrik Sorensen, Maren Anderson Sorensen, and minor child, Evelyn Sorensen, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Arthur Henrik Sorensen, Maren Anderson Sorensen, and minor child, Evelyn Sorensen. The bill provides for appropriate quota deductions and for the payment of the required visa fees and head taxes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiaries of the bill are natives and citizens of Denmark and are 33, 34, and 1½ years of age, respectively. They last entered the United States on June 4, 1949, as visitors pursuant to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948. Information in the files of the committee is to the effect that they have established themselves in the community life of Tonopah, Nev. Mr. Sorensen is employed in a dry-cleaning establishment. A number of letters have been received from prominent residents of their community all attesting to the good character and patriotism of the beneficiaries of the bill.

A letter dated June 5, 1950, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Assistant to the Attorney General,

with reference to a bill which was introduced in the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of the same aliens, reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
Washington, June 5, 1950.

HON. PAT McCARRAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 2550) for the relief of Arthur Henrik Sorensen, Maren Anderson Sorensen, and minor child, Evelyn Sorensen.

The bill would provide that Arthur Henrik Sorensen, Maren Anderson Sorensen, and their minor child, Evelyn Sorensen, shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence as of the date of their last entry, and would direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct three numbers from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service disclose that Arthur Henrik Sorensen and Maren Anderson Sorensen, nee Kragh, are husband and wife, natives and citizens of Denmark, having been born respectively in Horsens, Denmark, on February 26, 1917, and in Skjold, Denmark, on August 7, 1915. Their minor daughter, Evelyn Sorensen, was also born in Denmark on November 12, 1948. Coming from Copenhagen, they entered the United States at the port of New York on June 4, 1949, when they were admitted as temporary visitor "trainees" until September 4, 1949, under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924. Extensions of stay until December 4, 1949, were subsequently granted. Their visitor's visas were issued pursuant to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U. S. C. 1446). Although they have remained in the United States beyond the time for which they were admitted, proceedings to enforce their departure were ordered deferred pending congressional action on the instant bill.

The files further reflect that both Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen stated that the American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, N. Y., sponsored their coming to the United States as trainees, that they were given permission to seek employment in a business and the business in turn would pay their salaries to the foundation. It appears, however, according to their statements, that they have accepted the salary directly from their employers and have retained it for their own use. Mr. Sorensen stated that his purpose in coming to the United States was to study business methods of all kinds, claiming that at the time of his arrival it was not his intention to remain in the United States, but that within 3 months after his entry, he decided he liked this country and was going to try to remain here permanently. Both he and Mrs. Sorensen admitted that they made their decision to attempt to stay in this country permanently before they executed their applications for an extension of temporary stay, and Mr. Sorensen in his application for such extension stated, under oath, that he intended to depart from the United States as soon as he had completed his study of business administration in this country. According to his statement, his decision to remain here until compelled to leave was motivated by the political conditions now prevailing in Europe, though he admitted that should he return to his native Denmark he would not be subject to political persecution.

Almost immediately after their arrival in this country, they proceeded to Tonopah, Nev., where Mr. Sorensen's brother-in-law resides. Mr. Sorensen obtained employment with the Progress Bakery in Tonopah and is presently selling and delivering bakery products to stores and restaurants, at a salary of \$200 per month. Mrs. Sorensen stated that the American-Scandinavian Foundation was sponsoring her study and training in dry-cleaning methods in the United States. According to her, she obtained employment with the Tonopah Cleaners shortly after her arrival and is still employed by that concern at a salary of \$125 per month. Mr. Sorensen had approximately \$1,700 at the time they entered but he stated that they now have only about \$100 in the bank and have no resources in the United States other than their salaries and an automobile, valued at about \$800, but that he does have an equity in his home in Denmark.

The quota of Denmark, to which the aliens are chargeable, is oversubscribed for 1 year and immigration visas are not readily obtainable. The record fails, however, to present any facts which would justify the enactment of special legislation granting them a preference over nationals of Denmark or of other countries who desire to obtain the economic benefits of residence in the United States but who, nevertheless, are required to remain abroad and await their turn for the issuance

of immigration visas. To enact this bill would encourage other aliens, who find it difficult to obtain immigration visas, to seek to avoid compliance with the immigration laws by entering the United States in a nonimmigrant status, as these aliens did, and then attempt to have their status changed to that of permanent residence.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of this bill.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD, *Deputy Attorney General.*

Senator Pat McCarran, the author of the bill, has submitted a number of letters in connection with the case, among which are the following:

TONOPAH, NEV., *June 15, 1950.*

Hon. P. A. McCARRAN,  
*United States Senator, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR McCARRAN: Reference is made to Senate bill 2550 which was introduced by you to adjust our immigration status. In support thereof, we wish to make the following statement:

We were married in Denmark and have a minor child, Evelyn Sorensen, aged 1½ years; we came to the United States on June 4, 1949, as temporary visitor "trainees" under the sponsorship of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, N. Y. At the time we made application to come to the United States we were given to understand that our period of visitation would be from 1 year to 18 months. Afterward, it was determined that the visitation period would only be 3 months, expiring in September 1949, prior to which time we requested an extension of our permit. Although on the application for permit extension we stated that we would return to Denmark at the completion of our permitted stay in the United States, prior to making that application we had already conferred with officials relative to the possibility of remaining permanently in the United States. Our desire to remain permanently had been formed and expressed prior to making the application for extension, however, we had not yet been advised as to whether or not we could remain permanently under any circumstances, consequently, the application for extension of permit was regularly made and thereafter granted.

At the time we came to the United States it was also our understanding that we could engage in employment in the United States, but that our salaries or wages would be paid direct by the employer to the American-Scandinavian Foundation and the Foundation would, in turn, reimburse us to the extent of making it possible to provide for our expenses while living and working in the United States. After obtaining employment we were given to understand that wages and salaries could be paid directly to us and we received them with that understanding.

After arriving in the United States we immediately came to Tonopah, Nye County, Nev., where we have a sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Sorensen, of Tonopah, Nev., Mrs. R. B. Sorensen being a sister to Arthur Henrik Sorensen.

I, Arthur Henrik Sorensen, received employment with the Progress Bakery as a driver and delivery man, and I, Maren Anderson Sorensen, received employment in the cleaning establishment of Tonopah Cleaners, both of said employments being in Tonopah, Nev. We do not feel that, by our accepting such employment, we in any way have prevented other residents from the availability of these jobs; as in the case of the Progress Bakery job, the employer had had trouble obtaining and maintaining a steady employee, and such was also the case of the employment in the Tonopah Cleaners, where the same was of a more menial nature.

In line with our training program and our thereafter expressed desire to remain permanently in the United States, we have made every effort and have acquainted ourselves with the language, laws, and customs of the United States, and believe we have become good members of the society of the community in which we live, obeying the laws and living moral and upright lives. We have endeavored to take part and have engaged in various community activities, have made many friends, and have been openly and graciously received by the people of the community of Tonopah.

Although we came to the United States primarily to learn various business methods, yet after living here we were impressed with the freedom and democracy which is found here and so much different than in our native country. Although the position had by Arthur Henrik Sorensen in Denmark was a good position, yet the same was bound and limited by the rules and customs of the native country, and so much different than in our employment in this country where we have been allowed to succeed in some small way by steady and patient industry. After

breaking somewhat the ties established in our native country, we believe we would encounter extreme hardship in returning there, especially after the period of time which we have voluntarily requested and had in the United States, and our expressed desire to remain in the United States, if possible, all of which would tend to affect our well-being in our native country were we to return there.

May it also be said, without any desire to boast or to influence the outcome of this matter, the fact that prior to coming to the United States, I, Arthur Henrik Sorensen, was active in the underground activities in my native country on behalf of the Allies during World War II, and for which said activities I spent 20 months in a German concentration camp, and where my loyalties were definitely established and made of record, and particularly the fact that I was a non-Communist, and did not then nor do I now entertain any philosophy akin to communism, and I am certain that were I and my family to return to Denmark under the present uncertain conditions existing in Europe and the possibility of future conflict, I would no doubt and very speedily receive such penalties as would be inflicted upon me by those following the Communist line. We sincerely believe that we have been good law-abiding residents of the community of Tonopah, and that given the opportunity we can become good and worthy citizens of the United States.

We have not limited our activities in the community to enterprises solely for our material gain, but have taken active part in community, church, and school activities, and have given generously of our time and effort in behalf thereof, not so much for any material remuneration therefrom, but more so for the joy and happiness that it has given us and the expression of appreciation which we have received.

We have sought to remain in the United States permanently without the desire on our part to injure or prevent other people of our native country from coming here, but rather by having had the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the United States, we have a sincere and honest conviction that we and our children after us can become real citizens and help in the development and growth of the community in which we live, and thereby benefit the Nation of which we wish to become a part.

We also wish to state that we are in good health, have kept up and paid our premiums on our illness and accident insurance, which was made necessary to our coming here, we are fully able and willing to work, and that under no circumstance would we become public charges, as we now speak the language, have made many contacts, and have been accepted in all respects, even though we come from an outside country. Too, our relative, R. B. Sorensen, is now old and ill, and we are the only relatives upon which he can call for help, and to aid him in carrying on his mining activities in which he has been engaged for many years in the district adjoining the community of Tonopah.

We also feel that our general education, qualifications, should be a benefit and help to us as residents and later citizens of the United States.

And, finally, may we state that in our plans to come to the United States, our actual coming, and our stay in the United States, has been without any subterfuge whatever, nor with a desire to not comply with the laws of the United States, but rather, in fact we believe, we have done everything openly and have been counseled and advised by those who were represented to us as being in a position to counsel us. If allowed to remain in the United States, we pledge ourselves to a strict compliance with the laws and rules of the United States, a complete attention to and use of its language and customs and to forthwith prepare ourselves for the qualifications required for citizenship and to prosecute the same with all speed as provided for under the laws of the United States.

We believe we have been honest in all of our dealings with regard to this matter and write you the foregoing so that you may be fully informed.

We appreciate the courtesy of being able to write to you with regard to this matter, and we shall remain ever grateful.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR H. SORENSEN,  
MAREN ANDERSEN SORENSEN.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Tonopah, Nev., June 16, 1950.

Hon. SENATOR PAT McCARRAN,  
*United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR: It has come to our attention that Arthur Henrik Sorensen and his wife Maren Anderson Sorensen desire to remain in this country. The members of this post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are 100 percent in favor of their doing so.

Both Arthur and his wife are gainfully employed and have been so since they have been in this country. Neither one has taken a job away from anyone in this town. We have never seen anyone that has taken to our way of life and fitted right into the community as these folks have.

We, the members of Kenneth J. Booth Post 1103 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars heartily endorse the petition of this fine family and hope that the Congress of the United States see their way clear to allow them to stay in our land and become permanent citizens.

Respectfully yours,

GLEN C. JEFFREY, *Commander.*

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH,  
Tonopah, Nev., June 18, 1950.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,  
*Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR: Presuming your permission, I take the liberty to recommend for admission to citizenship Mr. and Mrs. Art Sorensen, of Tonopah. Although they are not members of my parish I have known them for more than a year as upright people, industrious, entirely reliable, in fine, most worthy and desirable as citizens of our country. I heartily wish you success in your commendable efforts in their behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Father T. O. RYAN.

CENTRAL MARKET AND GROCERY,  
Tonopah, Nev., June 17, 1950.

Re Arthur Sorensen, Tonopah, Nev.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,  
*United States Senator From Nevada,  
Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing with regard to Mr. Sorensen, who desires to remain in the United States; namely Tonopah, Nev.

To my knowledge Mr. Sorensen and family would make desirable citizens. He is a good worker and is steadily employed at the Progress Bakery in Tonopah.

Personally and as president of the Tonopah Chamber of Commerce, I would like to request that you do everything in your power to help Mr. Sorensen with his request.

Yours truly,

C. B. MARTY.

THE 20-30 CLUB OF TONOPAH,  
Tonopah, Nev., June 17, 1950.

Subject: Arthur Henrik Sorensen and family.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,  
*United States Senator, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR McCARRAN: I write to you in regard to Arthur Henrik Sorensen and family and in reference to the bill now pending in Congress that would allow Mr. Sorensen and family to remain in this country. As Mr. Sorensen is a member of our service club I feel it is well to have a report on what the members of our club have to say on the subject.

Mr. Sorensen has been a member of our organization for the past 6 months. He is considered one of the best workers in our ranks and as ours is a service club he is contributing greatly to the betterment of our community. I would say

that in the short time that Mr. Sorensen and family have been in our town they have fit into our way of life and beliefs and would be considered an asset to any American community. I am sure that given the opportunity they will make fine citizens of our Nation.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen hold jobs in our community and both are held in high regard by their employers. Both of their employers have had difficulty in the past filling the jobs and, therefore, their taking the positions has not taken the jobs from anyone else.

We in Tonopah feel that it would be an extreme hardship on the family if they were made to return to their native country. We are of the belief that in allowing people of the type of the Sorensens to remain in our country, we will benefit greatly as they are the kind that are needed to help keep our country a democracy.

I have written this letter in behalf of my fellow members with the hope that a country as big as ours and with a heart to match can see fit to let fine people like the Sorensens remain and help us in our way of life.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. FRIEL, *President.*

PROGRESS BAKERY,  
Tonopah, Nev., June 19, 1950.

Hon. PAT A. McCARRAN,  
*Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR McCARRAN: I wish to take this means of saying a few words in behalf of the Arthur H. Sorensen family's efforts to remain in the United States. As you know, Mr. Sorensen has worked in this establishment for the past year. The family lives in this neighborhood. I have had an opportunity to see this family practically every day of the past year. On the basis of this observation, I do not hesitate to recommend them highly to you. They are honest, sincere, and hard-working people and as long as we are accepting emigrants from Europe, I am certain that no better people could be found to replace them. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen are fitted by training and experience to fit well into the society of this country. After only 1 year here they both speak English well; they act, think, and behave as we do. I am certain that, given the chance, they will make fine citizens of our country.

If there is any further information I can give you or any way I can be of help please advise.

Yours truly,

T. L. TANNER.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 51) should be enacted.

○